

THOMPSON PLAYED SECOND FIDDLE.

Also Played the Piano While His Wife and Blauvelt Danced.

DAMAGE SUIT'S NEW TRIAL.

Poet-Editor Stoically Listens to His Old Love Letters.

PLAINTIFF SECURES SOME POINTS.

A Host of Witnesses and Many Curiosity Seekers in the New York Court Room.

Nyack, N. Y., May 11.—It requires more than ordinary grit to sit quietly in a chair and listen to the reading of your old love letters before a gaping, snickering audience, especially when the reader is antagonistic and takes care to accentuate every absurdity born of ardent and foolish love, and sees to it that every point susceptible of a double entendre is properly emphasized. Choryn's feat of snickering while he was having his teeth brushed by a brutal prize fighter is pure cowardice by comparison with what William R. Thompson did today.

It was the second day of the trial of the suit of the Nyack poet editor against George A. Blauvelt for damages of \$50,000 for alienating the affections of his wife, now Mrs. Blauvelt. The letters which secured a divorce for Mrs. Thompson were those written by the plaintiff, her former husband, to Mrs. Susan Vaughan, then a widow named Wells, in which the writer went to all the extremes made possible by a warm love, even to the writing of sweet little poems. There were twenty of these tender epistles to the entrancing Susan, and they were read to the last scrap, while Thompson sat sturdily in his chair unaffected by the laughter of those around him. The attorney for the defense, Mr. Trux, did not confine himself to reading, but after each letter he subjected the witness to a cruel inquisition, dissecting each letter carefully and forcing the plaintiff to assist in the dissection. Thompson passed through the ordeal by giving an exhibition of wonderful nerve, admitting everything, making no pretence of evasion, and confessing that his relations with Mrs. Vaughan, or Wells, had been improper at Nanuet, Buffalo, New York and Jersey City. The jurors received the letters stoically, unless, as one of the lawyers remarked after the reading, "some of them, especially the older ones, had a reminiscence look in their eyes," showing that certain tender passages in the missives brought back misty recollections of the past.

The crowd was much larger than on the first day, probably because it was known the proceedings would be more interesting. All the witnesses were there in force, and with them came the village gossip, male and female, who were not so much interested in the trial as in the "show" that did not like a crowd, so he scattered a part of it with his first question, which he phrased at the witness before partly Court Officer Lewis had fairly finished his "Oyez." The lawyer called a spade a spade, and the case and the case that came from the seats occupied by the women were followed by a fluttering as their grabbed their skirts and made for the door, outside of which they remained until late in the afternoon, when the examination of Mr. Thompson was concluded. Then they returned cautiously and settled down for an enjoyable afternoon, which was again cut short by Judge Hirschberg's unexpected early adjournment of court.

It was a good day for the plaintiff. His lawyers permitted his cross-examination to run on uninterrupted, and two objects were achieved. One of them was that the jury, after a time, found the interminable length of the letters growing wearisome. The jurors yawned and stretched and gave other evidences of being bored, and the effect Mr. Trux sought to produce was probably lost. Once love letters, if it is an author's, is immensely amusing. They are amusing even if they are your own. The principal reason for permitting the letters to be read was to give the plaintiff an opening to prove that Mrs. Thompson one day found one of Mrs. Wells' letters in her husband's pockets, and confronted him with it, whereupon he confessed his relations with the other woman and was forgiven, the two living together for years afterward and having one child born to them.

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D'AUMALE LEFT A WIDOW.

The Duke was Secretly Married to the Comtesse de Clinchamp.

(Copyright, 1897, by W. R. Hearst.)

Paris, May 11.—There appears to be no doubt that the Duc d'Aumale contracted a secret marriage with the Comtesse Berthe de Clinchamp. The marriage was celebrated in the private chapel of an Austrian cardinal in Rome.

Several reasons caused the Duke to keep the matter a secret, the chief of which was because it was impossible to place the Countess in a position in which she could be received in the same circle with the Orleans family.

The Comtesse de Clinchamp is an elderly, refined woman to whom the Duke, her husband, bequeathed a princely annuity with a life residence in the beautiful Chateau de la Novette, close to Chantilly.

FIFE IS INDIGNANT.

Wales' Son-in-Law Repudiates the Idea That He Profited by the Transvaal Raid.

London, May 11.—The Duke of Fife, son-in-law of the Prince of Wales, was a witness today before the committee which is investigating the Transvaal raid. The Duke said he knew nothing about the plan to invade the Transvaal, but admitted that he had sold 1,000 shares of the Chartered Company's stock in the Fall of 1895.

The Duke was asked if this sale had any-

thing to do with fears of disturbances in the Transvaal.

"Certainly not," he replied. "I repudiate the idea of having profited."

The Duke of Fife also said:

"I have a great regard for Mr. Rhodes, but if pressed I am perfectly prepared to say Mr. Rhodes deceived me. I am sorry to have to say so, but I have no doubt Mr. Rhodes will himself admit it."

PILLSBURY AS CHESS COACH.

Congress Gets the Expert Before Tackling the Parliamentary Team.

Washington, D. C., May 11.—In the absence of Chairman Pearson, of the Congressional committee on the cable match at chess between the House of Representatives and the House of Commons, Messrs. Shannon and Handy, of the committee, today requested John D. Elwell, of Brooklyn, who is in Washington, to telegraph Harry N. Pillsbury, the champion chess player, to come here to coach the American team for the match.

This is set for the 17th inst., but it may be postponed for a week to allow of a little longer practice.

AMMONIA UPSETS FIREMEN.

Three Hurt in a Boston Cold Storage Blaze.

Like the Recent One Here.

Boston, May 11.—Three firemen were slightly injured and a loss of \$5,000 was caused by a fire in the cold storage room of the Star Warehouse Company in Roxbury today. The flames heated a big tank of ammonia, causing it to explode with a force which shook the building from top to bottom.

Many of the firemen were thrown down, both within and without the building. The fire was a stubborn one, and the firemen had a hard fight for three and a half hours before they got it under control.

The facts alleged in the papers are that the Common Council of New York has received an offer for the purchase of the roads under the charter for \$4,500,000; that this offer was made by H. J. Braker, an importer of New York, and that the Common Council is to reject this offer and to give way the franchise under the proviso that there is to be a change in the motive power from horses to electricity.

This action, says Gleason, is in violation of the charter granted to the roads in 1851, whereby horse power was to be used below Forty-second street. He further says that the loss of \$4,500,000 will fall on Long Island City, as after January 1, 1898, that city will have to pay its proportionate share of taxes and assessments. He adds that there are many men out of work and it would be an injustice to give away the franchise, and that New York has a right to assume the franchises of the roads in question on paying the verified cost, as reported in the Comptroller's office in New York, fifty per cent.

This injunction, together with a similar one granted by Justice Smyth at the request of one Alexander Hadden, was issued by the Board of Electrical Control and the Board of Aldermen yesterday afternoon.

Both injunctions were intended to prevent any action upon a resolution introduced by the Board of Electrical Control, and another motion which urged that the change of motive power on the Eighth Avenue road be completed speedily, in the interest of the laboring masses.

Alderman Hall, at the meeting of the Board, succeeded in having a resolution adopted requesting the Corporation Counsel to ascertain without delay whether the city really has the right to acquire the two roads by paying their actual cost, plus 10 per cent. He added that if the city is not the right, then the public should know it, and stop its criticism of the Aldermen.

A communication was read from William M. Carroll, chairman of the Committee on City Affairs of the Board of Trade and Transportation, which demanded that as the change of motive power on the Eighth Avenue Railroad was "worth not less than \$2,000,000," the city should get an equivalent for the privilege. Moreover, the city respectfully protests against undue haste, and requests a hearing in order that all the facts may be discussed.

In view of the various matters relating

GLEASON'S HAND ON MAJOR STRONG.

Enjoins New York's Officials from Granting a Railroad Permit.

"MY TOWN IS AFFECTED."

Says Long Island City Would Have to Help Out in Paying the Bills.

For original ideas as to the manner in which to conduct a Mayoralty campaign

IVISON'S LOVE OF GOLD.

Once Expressed the Wish That He Might Carry His Wealth to the Grave with Him.

The content of the will of William Ivison, the eccentric millionaire who died last May,

to the two railroads, Alderman Noonan moved that Hall's resolution be referred to the Railroad Committee, that said committee report next Tuesday, and that part of the report shall announce a public hearing. The motion prevailed.

In regard to his action in appealing to the Supreme Court, Mayor Gleason said last night:

"I was a member of the Greater New York Charter Commission, and I inherited particularly to have that charter protect the interests of the people in the matter of franchises. I believe the city should own and lease them all."

"Mr. Braker not alone offers a good price for the property, but in addition is willing to supply the city with \$2,500,000 with which to buy the plants from the companies. So that, without investing one dollar, but simply taking advantage of its rights, the city could have two million of cash in the treasury and enjoy an income of \$100,000 additional each year. At present the sole income the city enjoys from the two roads is what it receives for car fares."

"I have noticed that since the Greater New York Charter Commission, that franchise grants have bubbled up in all directions. Long Island City must bear its share of the burdens of the big city, and I shall stay awake until I see that every possible means for bringing in a dollar to the government by the sale of franchises is followed."

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